By GEORGE JEAN NATHAN.

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Hall Caine's latest inspiration. "Margaret Schiller," on view in the New Amsterdam Theater, falls into the category of so-called surprise plays—a la "Seven Keys to Baldpate," "Under Cover," et al.—plays in which at the final curtain the fact is suddenly disclosed that the playwright has been misleading and tricking his auditors. In such a play as "Seven Keys to Baldpate," to be a conference of Teutonic rascais. The the nature of the surprise will be recalled to have been the revelation that the play was merely a magazine story upon which, during the space of the play's action, the hero had been workins. The surprise of such a piece as "Under Cover" will be remembered as the discissure of the hitherto concealed secret scription of trained star fearns of Otto's mission. But Otto fellows, The surprise of such a piece as "Under Cover" will be remembered as the discissure of the hitherto concealed secret scription of trained star fearns of Otto's mission. But Otto fellows are membered as the disstance of the hitherto concealed secret scription of trained star fearns of Otto's mission. But Otto fellows will not be dissuaded. No—Otto will not! Curtain.

Although the period of "Margaret Schiller" is vouchsafed in the playbill as "the future," the evening is nothing if the prime one feels sorry and, be tits hour of national period or period or trained starts the Cosmos theater will celebrate its sixth anniversary this week. Anniversary t

closure of the hitherto concealed secret service identity of the male protagonist.

Although the period of "Margaret Schiller" is vouchasfed in the playbill as "the future," the evening is nothing if not a to-do with the current current overseas unpleasantness. The prelude, which is of the play itself an unnecessary part, occurs in a scene described as "the official residence of the prime minister of England" and concerns merely the neglect of Germany to reply to a British ultimatum and the consequent declaration upon the Teutonic empire of war. Begins then the dirty work. The first act passes in the household of a German in Soho square, a household brought face to face with starvation through the removal of its male heads from employment by virtue of the British hostility to enemy aliens. Of this household is Elsie Ferguson. Before the ears of Miss Ferguson there is discharged a deal of Caine dialogue coming to a climax in the decision that the prime minister is the man who has been the actual guilty party and in the topping climax of Miss Ferguson's decision to insinuate herself into the gent's menage as governess and, once there, to apply as governess and, once there, to apply and solve the service of the prime minister is the man who has been the actual guilty party and in the topping climax of Miss Ferguson's decision to insinuate herself into the gent's menage as governess and, once there, to apply a decision to the prime minister is the man who has been the actual guilty party and in the topping climax of Miss Ferguson's decision to insinuate herself into the gent's menage as governess and, once there, to apply a special transport of the form of the first of t sinuate herself into the gent's menage governess and, once there, to apply herself to the undoing of the fellow.

The while this momentous decision is being negotiated, the British are heard marching off to the trenches in the

up again and Miss Ferguson is discovered under a pseudonym in the prime minister's house. The prime one's suspicions become aroused. Who is this crature? Then—our old comrade, the cross-questioning scene out of "Mrs. Dane's Defense." Following the formula set down by Sir Daniel Carteret, the prime gentleman "drags the truth" out of Miss Ferguson, whereupon Miss Ferguson, following the formula set down by Felicia living the formula set down by Felicia. In a word, the show, while missing novelties, is still lifeful and chic.

In addition to Miss Ferguson, the presenting company contains the Messrs. Norman Trevor. Frederick Esmelton, The while this momentous decision is being negotiated, the British are heard parching off to the trenches in the thoroughfare beneath the windows and Reichardt and Van Biene. The scenic equipment is, if not exactly appropriate. the curtain descends as the circumspect Miss Ferguson, throwing back her head defiantly, drowns the British bands by commendation.

Miss Ferguson, throwing back her head defiantly, drowns the British bands by banging out the kaiser-song upon the plano. The moment recalled that other and not dissimilar coup in the late Justus Miles Forman's war play, "The Hypen," wherein' three German spies, bent upon a perilous mission, stopped in the middle of their subtle strategies to put their heads together and render a barber shop on "Die Wacht am Rhein."

But let us proceed. The curtain goes up again and Miss Ferguson is discovered under a pseudonym in the prime min
The new version of the "Midnight Frolle" on the roof of the New Amsterdam Theater follows closely the scheme of its predecessor. Of its sepcies, this "Frolle" is probably richer and more colorful than anything else in the midnight world. Expensively equipped and adrictly handled, Mr. Ziegfeld has made of his night roof show an institution of Msnhattan. The present bill opens with a number called "The Girls of New York Town," to which title sufficiently indi-

## PROMISED NEXT WEEK

Margaret Anglin will be the attraction at the New National Theater next week in Paul Kester's comedy, "Beverly's Bal-The piece is said to be deftly written.

vill be presented by Charles Hopkins, young actor-manager, and owner, director of the unique Punch and Theater, New York, and who to

hnown Broadway actors, including George Fawcett, who gives us Long John Silver to the life. Little Jim Hawkins is played by Ruth Vivian, who is said to bring to the part all of youth and enthusiasm.

the usual stage presentations. For example, he has no wall of separating footlights, as his stage extends directly into the audience. His curtain is half-way to the back of his platform, and the players do not necessarily enter from the wings or the back of the scene. Some of them come down through the spectators, some of them from in front of the curtain-and in one play some of them are seated in the audience. Mr. Walker wishes to carry his audience right into the heart of his productions, to make them feel and act with the players, and the enthusiasm of those who have already seen his performances would tend to show that he has achieved this goal. Programs of short plays are to be given, which will show the versatility of his company and the varied effects which system of lighting and colors.

For the first time in two years, the Foil Players will be seen next week in a play offered for the first time on any stage. It is the prize comedy, "In Walked Jimmy," which Mr. S. Z. Poil has secured with the expectation of presenting it on Broadway shortly after Walked Jimmy,
has secured with the expectation of presenting it on Broadway shortly after
the Easter holidays, and at which time
the New England magnate will be assoclated with another producer.
"In Walked Jimmy" is said to be a
breezy, modern comedy.
In the title role of Jimmy, A. H. Van
The title role of Jimmy, A. H. Van
Broen is expected to score a noteworthy
The product of the drafting of all single
men of military age for war service, the
stage is virtually to lose all its young
actors for the time being, and managers
are in such a predicament to find actors
to play juventle roles that many of

Hargaret Anglin in "Beverly's substantial success which Mr. Poli confidently expects it will, the original production can be used for the Broadway engagement.

### Vaudeville.

Next week is Washington's Birthday The piace is said to be dertay written, be story unfolding a wealth of clean, ch humor.

Marriage and divorce are the themes the petrons of Keith vaudeville, on which the petrons will be the petrons of Keith vaudeville, on which the petrons will be the petrons of Keith vaudeville, on which the petrons will be the petrons of Keith vaudeville, on which the petrons will be the petrons of Keith vaudeville, on which the petrons will be the petrons of Keith vaudeville, on which the petrons will be the petrons of Keith vaudeville, on which the petrons of Keith vaudeville which Marriage and divorce are the themes treated in a humorous vein and Miss Anglin, who is, of course, the central figure, has ample opportunity for her talents and charming personality.

An exceptionally strong cost will be seen in Miss Anglin's support, and "Beverly's Balance" promises to be one of the real events of the theatrical season.

"Treasure Island."

"Trea

Judy Theater, New York, and who is attracting widespread attention by not only his own artistic acting, but also for the beauty of his production. The dramatization of "Treasure Island" follows the book closely and is in four acts and nine scenes.

There are twenty-four speaking parts in the play and to portray the various characters, Mr. Hopkins has assembled a cast of twenty-four well-known Broadway actors, including fleerge Pawcett, who gives us Long John Silver to the life. Little Jim Hawkins is played by Ruth Vivian. Who is said to bring to the part all omes to the Gavety on

## Feature Films.

Henry Woodruff will head the program at Moore's Strand Theater on Sunday, at Moore's Strand Theater on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday of next week, in D. W. Griffith's, "The Beckoning Flame." Other film attractions for the week include Orrin Johnson and Enid Markey in a Triangle drama "The Price of Power;" Fred Mace, in "Love Will Conquer," and Anna Little in a visualization of Rudyard Kipling's story, "When the Light Came."

## Tercentenary Celebration.

Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson has ac company and the varied effects which cepted the invitation of the club committee of the Shapespeare tercentenary clebration to speak at the Cathdral of St. John the Divine. New York, at the Easter afternoon services, to be held at o'clook, on April 23, the 30th annivercepted the invitation of the club comsary of Shakespeare's death. At the same hour in Westminster Abbey, London, a special memorial service to Shakespeare will be held under the direction of Actors' Church Union of Great Britain and Ire-land.

In the title role of Jimmy, A. H. Van
Buren is expected to score a noteworthy
success, while Florence Rittenhouse will
be seen as the heroine. The other members of the Poli company will be cast
in congenial roles.

The play will be elaborately staged in
such a manner that should it prove the

## THE CURRENT WEEK.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE.

ing Demons, Stone & Pillard, will be seen in various specialties.

### Cosmos-Vaudeville.

Beginning today and continuing until Wednesday, "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine," in which Charlotte Walker plays the principle role, will be shown on the screen at Loew's Columbia Theater. Miss Walker scored a brilliant success as "June" when this play was presented on the speaking stage, and that the prolucers of the photoplay have secured he services for the screen version should be a treat to lovers of the photo drama. The wonderful atmosphere of the mountains and the peculiar characteristics of the uneducated mountaineers has been main-tained throughout the entire picture. For the remainder of the week Flor-ence Rockwell in "He Fell in Love with His Wife" will be the feature. His Wife" will be the feature. Miss Rockwell is supported in this picture by a capable cast, including Forrest Stanley, Page Peters, Lydia Yeamans Titus and Howard Davies. As the traditional Irish cook, Mrs. Titus is provided many chances to make fun and her work in this character is said to be a big and musting part of this dementic file play. amusing part of this dramatic film play.

### Casino-Pictures.

Romance, comedy, drama, novelty and dancing are features of the quaint and interesting story of the lives and love of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Castle, together with some of the things they accomplished in life, as shown in the photo production, "The Whirl of Life," the scenario of which was written by Vernon Castle himself, at the sugges-tion of John Cort, the theatrical man-ager, and which will be the attraction at the Casino Theater beginning at 3 o'clock this afternoon and con thuing from 1 to 11 p. m. daily to and including Wednesday. The story has been elaborated for dramatic effect and serves to introduce some beautiful gowns and stage pictures, and affords an opportunity to study the interesting couple in their famous dances at close range.

Jane Grey and Tully Marshall will head the double feature program at Moore's Garden Theater today, where they will be seen in D. W. Griffith's comedy drama. "For a Woman's Honor," adapted from a story by Newland Hamilton entitled "Let Katy Do It." As an extra attraction Mr. Moore will present Mabel Normand and Roscoe Arbuckle in a farcical comedy entitled "Patty and Mabel mand and Roscoe Arbuckie in a farcical comedy entitled "Fatty and Mabel Adrift." On Wednesday and Thursday Richard Buhler will hold the screen in "A Man's Making." a story of success won against terrific odds. Winifred Greenwood in "A Modern Sphinx" will be the secondary attraction on these days. Fiorence Reed will headline the program on Friday and Saturday in a visualization of "New York." William Hurburt's Burlesque.

Rose Sydell's London Belies company

The Germany Burlesque and Hazel Kirk in a dramatic comedy, "Outform the auxiliary feature

John Silver to the life. Little Jim Hawkins is played by Ruth Vivian, who is said to bring to the part all of youth and enthusiasm.

Portmanteau Theater Production.

"Something new under the sun" is the unique achievement of a young stage director in New York, who was associated for the past six years with David Belasco ns general stage director and who has now devised his own theater, with a stage so compact that it can be packed up in crates and carried about the country, and yet so effective as to be his despair of the big playhouse owners. It is called the Portmanteau Theater and is going to be shown in Washington on February 22 in the New Willard ball-room.

Stuart Walker, its director and inventor, believes that much of the youth and happiness and a close intimacy between players and spectators has been lost in the usual stage presentations. For example, he has no wall of separating footlights, as his stage extends directly with the stage of the part all of the part all

George Baldwin will play the leading role in Andreas Dippel's production of "The Princess Tra-ia-la."

## AMUSEMENTS.

SERBIAN MISSION OF RELIEF COME AND HEAR!

Belasco Theater Sunday Afternoon, February 20th, 3 P. M.

## SPEAKERS:

Cheddomil Miyatovich (Former Serbian Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Minister to the Court of St. James.)

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NEW WILLARD BALLROOM.

MATINES, 230 P. M.:
The Primplet
Six Who Fass While the Leptils Boil

EVENTING, 150 P. M.:
Gazmer Gurton's Needle
Six Who Fass While the Leptils Boil.
State now on sale in New Willard jobby.

## the town hall or any place where peo-ple assemble. Its principal function is to stimulate an interest for clean drama and original entertainment among the people living in the open country or villages. ALFRED G. ARNOLD TO

LECTURE FOR DRAMA LEAGUE

The members of the Washington Center of the Drama League will have an opportunity this week of meeting the originator of one of the most suc-cessful of the little theater movements in this country, and of hearing first hand from him of his venture in this field. It is said that no recent theatri-Ruth St. Denis, the interpretative dancer, in her large production, has been secured for a Keith vaudeville tour and yesterday completed her second consecutive week's engagement at the Keith Palace Theater, New York City, where she proved a phenomenal attraction. It was not until Friday last that Resident Manager Robbins learned from General Manager E. F. Albee that a tour had been arranged and Washington will be among the earliest visited. Mr. Albee would not give the date beyond declaring it would be soon. A company of ten artists and several spectacular scenes are employed in the production which is said to be on a mammoth scale for vaudeville. cal experiment has received more widespread praise or aroused more serious spread praise or aroused more serious interest than has been bestowed on the Little Country Theater, located in one of the buildings of the North Dakota Agricultural College at Fargo, North Dakota.

Mr. Alfred G. Arvold, the founder, has received inquiries from all parts of the Union, and several residents of Porto Rico and the Philippines have already undertaken the work of de-veloping a Little Country Theater in their respective communities.

Mr. Arvold's address at the last annual convention of the Drama League of America aroused such enthusiasm that it has been arranged for him to make a tour of the various Drama League Centers of the country. He will be in Washington on Saturday. February 19, and will address the

The fact that in the billing of "Mac-beth," in which Viola Allen and James K. Hackett will begin an engagement at the Criterion Monday night, the name of the actress comes first, when Mr. Hackett is the financial backer of the February 19, and will address the Drama League on Saturday evening at 8 o'clock at the Friends' School. 1809 I street. Following the lecture there will be an informal reception to Mr. Arvold.

The object of the Little County Theater is to produce such plays as can be cashily staged in a country school, the basement of a country church, in the sitting room of a farm house, in the honor to her.

to be on a mammoth scale for vaudeville.

Hackett's Chivalry.

COMING TO KEITH'S

Ruth St. Denis, the interpretative

RUTH ST. DENIS

AMUSEMENTS.

AMUSEMENTS.

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CHARLOTTE WALKER The Trail of the Lonesome Pine

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